

hopes have been dashed. The last few months have been their own tidy case study in what kind of global actor the so-called People's Republic has chosen to be.

Their response to the coronavirus pandemic that started in their own country was to silence their own doctors, imprison their own people, shut down important research, and lie to the rest of the world while hoarding supplies for themselves. The CCP's selfishness and failures fueled a worldwide catastrophe, and, ever since, they have tried to use that catastrophe as a smokescreen for other aggression.

While they thought the rest of the world was distracted, China has cracked down on Hong Kong; conducted provocative military exercises near Taiwan; expanded its bullying into the South China Sea; pressured the Philippines; and literally initiated physical fighting with India in the Himalayas.

Oh, and according to press reports, China has also found the time to mount online disinformation campaigns to hurt America and divide us among ourselves. Bad actors linked to Beijing have reportedly flooded Twitter to exploit the death of George Floyd and increase hostility among Americans. Even in official channels, CCP leaders mock America and imply our society is no better than their tyranny.

Now, as an aside, some Democrats here in Washington seem to have swallowed the Chinese propaganda and set out to amplify it themselves, including from right here on the Senate floor.

Yesterday, right here in the Senate Chamber, the Democratic leader explicitly compared America men and women in uniform to the Chinese murderers who committed the massacre in Tiananmen Square. Leader SCHUMER said that, when he saw images of American men and women in uniform standing near the recently defaced Lincoln Memorial and protecting the right to peaceful protest, "You cannot help but think of Tiananmen Square." That is what he said.

I am sure Beijing was thrilled with this shameful comparison. A propaganda victory for Communist China, gift-wrapped with the compliments of the Democratic Party, delivered just in time for this bloody anniversary.

Imagine being so consumed by partisanship that you deliberately link the brave American men and women who stop violence, protect peaceful protests, defend citizens' constitutional liberties, and defend against violent riots to the Chinese butchers who gunned down crowds of peaceful dissenters who were begging for the same rights our military defends.

In America, the police help peaceful marchers march. Over there, they gun them down. If anyone is having trouble distinguishing these things, the problem is not with our Nation—it is with them.

Now, these recent examples of Chinese hostility are just symptoms of a

fundamental problem that has come into focus. Decades ago, the United States and the rest of the world made a calculated bet that welcoming China into the fold would cause it to mend its ways.

It was 20 years ago that President Clinton argued for admitting China into the WTO because "economic innovation and political empowerment . . . will inevitably go hand in hand." Many smart people made that wager—in both parties—but we should never have used words like "inevitable."

President Clinton also said: "China has been trying to crack down on the internet. . . . Good luck!" Back in the year 2000, the transcript says, that was greeted with laughter. Well, no one is laughing now.

China's leaders have pounced on every inch of economic space the world has afforded them—and then some. They have cheated on trade and have stolen foreign technology. They have executed on long-term plans to dominate key global industries. They have weaponized foreign aid to bring developing countries under their thrall. So the Chinese economy has leapt forward. The Chinese people enjoy greater prosperity, which they sorely need after decades of Communist mismanagement, but all of this money and innovation have not brought the people any more freedom. They have given CCP elites better high-tech tools with which to oppress their own people and more leverage with which to undermine the international system.

Rather than importing liberty into China, this economic integration seems to have been rather more successful at exporting its authoritarian preferences to the rest of us. Right here in the United States, we have seen Hollywood make a gross habit of self-censoring films to avoid offending the Chinese Communist Party. We have seen the NBA prioritize its profits in China and throw an employee under the bus who spoke out for Hong Kong. The same elites, institutions, and businesses that feel totally free to critique our own society—and rightly so—increasingly walk on eggshells around President Xi and his cronies.

And free speech is hardly the only front where China poses an international threat. A recent major report from an interagency task force found that China's deliberate economic aggression and targeting of our industrial base is a significant national security vulnerability for the United States, and many other nations are awakening to that same reality.

Back in March, a CCP-controlled newspaper threatened to cut off pharmaceutical exports to the United States and "plunge" Americans "into the mighty sea of coronavirus" if we did not play more nicely with Beijing. One month later, Chinese officials threatened a boycott of Australia because our Australian friends wanted to investigate the origins of the pandemic.

Earlier this year, the Director of the FBI explained that China's criminal conspiracies against the United States and our companies make the CCP the "greatest long-term threat" to America's information security, intellectual property, and, by extension, our "economic vitality." Once again, our allies and partners are being victimized by the very same tactics.

One outside report found that the "United States is losing between \$400 billion and \$600 billion per year in intellectual property theft as a matter of provable losses, and that figure does not account for second-order losses such as jobs and infrastructure." Let's put that in perspective. Congress has been working hard on the huge, historic Paycheck Protection Program. It has pushed out a half a trillion dollars for American workers. Well, by this estimate, China reaches into our country and steals the equivalent of that entire program every single year.

China does not play by the rules, not in Hong Kong, not in the WHO, not in the WTO, not in international trade. Year after year, on issue over issue, it has chosen the path of aggression. So there will be consequences.

Just this week, the U.K. is reportedly continuing to back away from plans to work with Huawei, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson is impressively preparing to offer visas so that Hongkongers who want to know their freedoms and liberties are secure can take refuge in the United Kingdom instead. In Japan, Prime Minister Abe is taking major steps to strengthen Japan and check China's economic aggression. It is a good thing, too, because defending American security, American interests, American prosperity, and the international system cannot be a go-it-alone operation.

There will be steps the United States will take on our own, but just as the entire free world stands united today to remember Tiananmen Square, so we will need to stand together to prevent the world's public square from heading toward a similar domination by China. We will need to keep our friends and partners close. China can try to repress its own people, but the United States of America will never fall silent. We will never go dark. We will keep the candles lit. We will protect our people and their bright future.

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#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Pack, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for the term of three years. (New Position)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, a short time ago, in conjunction with the memorial service being held today in Minnesota for George Floyd, I joined the rest of the Democratic caucus in Emancipation Hall to recognize a moment of silence in honor of his memory as well as the memory of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Aubrey, and the unimaginable number of Black Americans who have had their lives ended in police custody.

Standing before the statue of Frederick Douglass, a Black American who fought his whole life for a measure of racial equality, the moment of silence lasted 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time that the White police officer in Minneapolis pressed his knee on George Floyd's neck. Standing there in silence, you feel the horrifying length of George Floyd's final 9 minutes. You cannot help but imagine his horror and fear, knowing that his trauma and the trauma of his family and his friends has been felt by so many Black families and Black communities across the country and across the centuries.

Of course, a moment of silence, a moment of solidarity, is no substitute for real action. That is why Senate Democrats are working with our House colleagues on policing reform legislation.

That is why we are demanding that the Republican majority leader commit to addressing this issue on the floor of the Senate.

Leader MCCONNELL, why don't you admit that we have to do something here and not just say: Well, maybe we will take a look at it, as you did on gun control after the violent shootings and then did nothing? Make a commitment

here and now to the American people that we will put on the floor—that you will put on the floor police reform and racial justice legislation this month.

Will our Republican colleagues ever join us in this effort? I know these issues aren't easy, but we can't begin to make progress if the Republican leader and the Republican majority will not even let us try or address these issues in a legislative manner.

The Republican leader has said:

The coin of the realm in the Senate is floor time. What are you going to devote time to?

Well, it has been 5 weeks since Leader MCCONNELL called the Senate back into session during the height of a pandemic. The Republican majority has yet to put a single bill on the floor of the Senate related to COVID-19.

We passed a much needed extension of PPP reform last night, a very popular and bipartisan program, only after Democrats forced action here on the floor. I don't believe our Republican majority would have done anything.

We announced we would UC the bill, and we did, and it was blocked. Then, of course, faced with the public pressure of moving, Leader MCCONNELL came on the floor late last evening and moved the bill.

Make no mistake about it, without the pressure that we Democrats placed on the Republican majority to make these changes, it would certainly have been further delayed and might never have happened.

Now, Leader MCCONNELL has said that another emergency relief bill was likely before July 4, but then on Tuesday, when listing his priorities for the June session, Leader MCCONNELL did not mention COVID legislation.

Republican Senators are starting to say that another relief bill might—might—come in late July—shocking. This past week—just today it was announced—nearly 2 million more Americans filed for unemployment, bringing the total since the start of the pandemic to over 42 million.

The monthly jobs report tomorrow is expected to report over 20 percent unemployment, and we should wait? As people are losing their jobs, as parents are not sure they can feed their kids or stay in their homes, as small businesses, where people put their blood, sweat, and tears over the years and even decades to build them are collapsing—and we should wait? Why? Because maybe some rightwing ideologues or some of the very big leaders of the Republican Party and benefactors don't like spending money on anything?

I don't know if that is the reason. I hope it isn't. But we can't wait. We can't wait.

The economic disaster, as with so many issues in society, will disproportionately affect Black Americans. So far, 109,000 fellow Americans have died. More are dying every day, every single day, but Senate Republicans want to wait until late July to maybe—maybe do another relief bill.

The coin of the realm in the Senate is floor time. Leader MCCONNELL, every Senate Republican, what are you going to devote time to?

Today, toward the end of one of the more tumultuous and painful weeks in recent memory, marked by emotional protests about racial justice and police violence, Senate Republicans are holding sessions in the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees related to President Trump's favorite conspiracy theories about the 2016 election.

I am not making this up. That is what they are doing, American people—not talking about COVID, not talking about racial justice but focusing on some Russian-originated theory that has been discredited by our intelligence agencies. That is what the Republican Senate is doing. No wonder they are in trouble.

The American people are looking for some kind of real help, some kind of real discussion, and the Republicans are talking about conspiracy theories.

Then the Senate Judiciary Committee is about to approve another rightwing judge, a McConnell protege, Justin Walker—seriously. At least, if you look at the record and history of Justin Walker, the chances of him being for strengthening voting rights and antidiscrimination legislation is very, very tiny. Yet they move forward on him.

By the end of the day, the two Republican-led committees will have approved up to 100 subpoenas—unprecedented in modern history. In the midst of national crises, Senate Republicans are trying to use the Senate to do opposition research for the President's reelection campaign. Seriously?

The Republican majority will approve up to 100 subpoenas to chase the President's wild conspiracy theories but has not put one bill on jobs, one bill on testing, one bill on employment on the floor of the Senate since Leader MCCONNELL called us back. They will not even commit to a debate on law enforcement reform.

You might think that an economic crisis, a public health emergency, on top of the searing reminder of racial injustice, might have put the conspiracy caucus on pause, but no—no such luck.

The American people should call their Republican Senators. They should demand action. The Republican Senate is failing to meet this important moment, and the Republican President isn't doing any better.

In a week marred by unacceptable violence and rioting in some places, the President advocates more violence, more chaos, more disorder, including appalling attacks on the constitutional rights of protesters on his front porch.

I am heartbroken by stories of peaceful protesters being injured when the protests turn ugly. I am heartbroken by reports of police officers who are doing their job the right way, striving to keep the peace, who have been gravely injured.